

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 EPG-02 AID-05

SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

OMB-01 FEA-01 OIC-02 AF-10 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10

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INFO ALL OECD CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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USMTN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GATT

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL MEAT CONSULTATIVE GROUP, JULY 7-8 MEETING

1. SUMMARY: INTERNATIONAL MEAT CONSULTATIVE GROUP (UMCG) HELD CONSULTATIONS ON CURRENT AND FORSEEABLE MARKET CONDITIONS AND ON IMPROVEMENTS AND PRESENTATION OF INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY PARTICIPANTS. EXPORTERS EMPHASIZED MINIMAL PROSPECTS FOR ANY SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN ACCESS TO TRADITIONAL MARKETS AND-- CONSISTENT WITH EARLY WARNING FUNCTION OF GROUP-- DREW ATTENTION TO THE NEED FOR GREATER EFFORTS IN THE MTN TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO "CONTINUOUS CRISIS" SITUATION. NO DECISIONS TAKEN ON IMPROVING FORM AND CONTENT OF MODEL QUESTIONNAIRE. GROUP SCHEDULED TO MEET NEXT NOVEMBER 17-18. END SUMMARY.

2. THE IMCG HELD ITS EIGHTS SESSION JULY 7-8. CONSULTATIONS WERE BASED ON COUNTRY STATEMENTS, ON RESPONSES TO THE MODEL
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QUESTIONNAIRES, AND ON THE BACKGROUND DISCUSSION PAPER (IMCG/W/40) AND SUMMARY TABLES (IMCG/W/15/REV.4) PREPARED BY THE GATT SECRETARIAT. STATEMENT WERE MADE BY AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, ARGENTINA, POLAND, EC, CANADA, U.S., AND SOUTH AFRICA. U.S. STATEMENT BASED ON THE JUNE USDA LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION REPORT (LMS 215).

3. EXPORTERS EFFECTIVELY UTILIZE IMCG FORUM TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON CONTINUED POOR PROSPECTS FOR ANY SIGNIFICANT SHORT OR MEDIUM TERM IMPROVEMENT IN ACCESS TO TRADITIONAL MARKETS, ESPECIALLY THE MARKETS OF THE EC AND JAPAN. THE EC'S NEW IMPORT REGULATIONS CAME UNDER POINTED CRITICISM SINCE DEVELOPMENTS SINCE APRIL 1 HAVE SHOWN THAT THE EC LEVY ON BEEF IMPORTS HAS BEEN APPLIED AT THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE PERCENTAGE RATE (114 PERCENT).

4. ARGENTINA RECALLED THAT FUNCTION OF IMCG WAS NOT MERELY TO ASSESS AND NOTE A CRISIS SITUATION BUT TO DRAW ATTENTION-- TO SOUND THE ALARM-- THAT ACTION IS REQUIRED WHICH, IN THE PRESENT SITUATION, MEANT INTENSIFYING EFFORTS IN THE MTN. THE EC VIGOROUSLY OPPOSED ANY FORMAL IMCG SUGGESTION OR RECOMMENDATION FOR ACTION BEING MADE TO ANOTHER FORUM AS FALLING OUTSIDE THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE GROUP. OTHER EXPORTERS HARED ARGENTINA'S CONCERN AND THE CHAIRMAN, IN HIS REPORT, WILL NOTE THAT SOME DELEGATIONS EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE STATE OF THE INTERNATIONAL MEAT MARKET AND DREW ATTENTION TO THE NEED FOR GREATER EFFORTS IN THE MTN TO FIND SOLUTIONS.

5. THE CHAIRMAN ALSO NOTED IN CONCLUSION THAT (A) DEVELOPMENTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL MEAT MARKET SINCE LAST MEETING HAVE NOT BORNE OUT THE OPTIMISM EXPRESSED THAT A DEFINITE UPTURN HAS OCCURRED, (B) PRODUCERS STILL CONCERNED WITH UNREASONABLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RETURNS AND COSTS OF PRODUCTION, AND (C) A KEY QUESTION IS WHETHER THE NEW MARKETS DEVELOPED IN PAST TWO YEARS WILL CONTINUE TO BE OUTLETS WHEN PRICES IMPROVE.

6. THE FORM AND CONTENT OF THE MODEL QUESTIONNAIRE (L/4168/REV. 1) WAS EXPLAINED WITH A VIEW TO FURTHER REFINEMENT SO AS TO ENABLE THE GROUP TO FULFILL ITS FUNCTIONS MORE EFFECTIVELY. AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND ARE CONCERNED WITH IMPROVING PRICE INFORMATION AND INCLUSION OF SUPPLY/DEMAND BALANCES; NEW ZEALAND AND CANADA EXPRESSED NEED FOR CONDENSING QUESTIONNAIRE TO AVOID DUPLICATION AND FOR COORDINATING FORMAT WITH FAO AND OECD FORMATS; CANADA WANTS MORE DATA ON INVENTORIES, AND SO ON.

7. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE GATT SECRETARIAT WOULD EXAMINE WITH FAO AND OECD THE EXTENT TO WHICH STANDARDIZATION OF THE INFORMATION FROM CAPITALS IS POSSIBLE AND WITH GENEVA DELEGATIONS ON THEIR VIEWS OF SPECIFIC POINTS FOR IMPROVING QUESTIONNAIRE AND COMMUNICATE THE RESULTS IN ADVANCE OF NEXT MEETING. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT PARTICIPANTS EMPLOY THEIR BEST ENDEAVORS TTO SUBMIT REPLIES TO THE MODEL QUESTIONNAIRE SIX WEEKS BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING.

8. THE IMCG GROUP WILL HOLD ITS NEXT MEETING ON NOVEMBER 17-18
SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION.

9. DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED TO GROUP AND COUNTRY STATEMENTS
WHEN AVAILABLE WILL BE FORWARDED TO FAS/USDA.
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Message Attributes

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